

S5 Assembly – Monday 18th March 2023

S6 Options Process



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The S6 Options Process Timeline



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By now you should be:

OPTIONS BOOKLET

- Looking over the course description booklet that was posted on the school website.
- The link was emailed home to families on Monday 11th March.
- This can be found in the S5 Year Group Section of the school website or the S5 Year Group Team.
- It is vital that you take time to read over this carefully.



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S5 TRACKING REPORT ISSUED LAST MONTH

- Use this report to help inform you of your next steps for subjects in S6.
- If you are staying on for S6, use this report to help plan the number of qualifications you hope to secure by the end of S6.



THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2024

- Our Information Event was held on Thursday 7th March.
- The presentation can be found on your year group team and the school website S5/6 year group section.



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WEEK OF MONDAY 15TH APRIL 2023

- During this last week of teaching prior to the SQA exams, you will be issued with your final S5 Tracking Report.
- This report is the SQA Estimate Report.
- Again – use this report to help guide your decisions.
- There should not be huge differences between this and your most recent report.



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WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL 5PM – DEADLINE!

- This is the deadline for the final S5 into S6 Options Form.
- This will be submitted via a glow form.
- This is NOT a draft as we will base our school timetable and classes on the numbers collected from this.
- The form will be emailed to families and posted on the year group team.



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Key Advice and Information about the S6 Options Process



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Should I return to school in S6?

- It is important to note that S6 is not for everyone.
- By this point, some learners are ready for a new challenge or a different kind of learning environment.
- If you are finding it difficult to motivate yourself in school at present – think seriously about leaving – S6 will not be any different!
- If you have **ANY DOUBT** at all about returning – speak to your House Team asap to make back-up applications – you can always change your mind.



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Should I return to school in S6?

- Another good indicator that you may be ready to leave school may arise during the course choice process.
- We offer an extensive range of courses in S6 – if you are struggling to choose subjects in S6, we would suggest strongly that you speak to your House DHT as it may be an indicator that S6 is not the best option.



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Adding Value in S6

- One of the most important things to consider for S6 is that you are significantly adding value to the qualifications you have already secured in S4/S5.
- You **MUST** be prepared and committed to **adding value** by securing a **minimum of four qualifications in S6**.
- Otherwise, you will be making it much more difficult for yourself to secure a destination at the end of S6.



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Research for S6 Options is vital

- We are basing our school timetable upon the options that you ask for in April.
- Therefore it is **VITAL** that you do your research **NOW**.
- It may not be possible to select a different subject in August because you have noticed it is an entry requirement for a course you wish to study.
- Look at University and College entrance requirements **NOW** in order to ensure you are making the right decisions.



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Research for S6 Options is vital

- www.planitplus.net
- www.myworldofwork.co.uk
- Seek Advice – Pastoral Care Teacher
- School Careers Advisor
- DYW Coordinator – Ms Cusick
- University / College & Apprenticeship Websites
- Subject teachers
- Speak to family members / family friends



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1. How many subjects do I have to study in S6?

- ALL S6 students **MUST** study a minimum of 4 school subjects.
- This is a requirement of you returning for S6.
- You will be asked to sign a contract of commitment to your studies in S6 in June.
- If you are not prepared to study 4 subjects, you may wish to consider going to college instead.
- **Some students may be told to study 5 subjects.**



2. Do I have to study English in S6?

- Every learner should aim to secure a minimum of **National 5 in English by the end of S5 and Higher by the end of S6 (if possible)**.
- Ideally if you are sitting National 5 English at present, our hope would be that you move on to Higher English in S6.
- Speak to your English teacher who can help advise.
- If you are on track to pass H English in S5 – no need to do English in S6 unless you wish to study Advanced Higher English.



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3. Do I have to study Maths in S6?

- Every learner should aim to secure a minimum of National 5 Maths or Application of Maths by the END OF S6.
- If you are **NOT** on track to pass National 5 Maths in S5, you **MUST** study this again in S6 but choose National 5 Application of Maths.
- If you are on track to pass National 5 – no need to study Maths in S6.



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4. Should I study H Maths in S6?

- Our school data shows that students who achieve a minimum of a grade B at National 5 perform well at Higher.
- It can also be additionally challenging if you have had a year away from Maths and did not study this in S5.
- Unless you specifically need this for a course (very few ask for Higher Maths) our advice would be to study another subject instead of Higher Maths.
- Speak to Mr Henderson if you want specific advice regarding your own Maths pathway.



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5. How many Higher subjects should I sit in S6?

- Ideally if at all possible you should aim to leave school at the end of S6 with a minimum of five Highers.
- If you are on track to achieve five Highers in S5, you should still be aiming to secure more Highers in S6 and perhaps some Advanced Highers.



6. Can I crash Higher subjects?

- Yes you can crash subjects at Higher in S6.
- We would encourage you however to continue to play to your strengths from S5.
- For example if you are passing Higher Modern Studies – look at other Social Subjects or literacy based courses such as Business Management.
- If you are passing Higher Physics – Higher Engineering Science or Chemistry may be a good option.



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7. Should I sit Advanced Highers?

- We would suggest that you discuss this with your House Team as it very much depends on the subject and each young person.
- The majority of courses do not require Advanced Higher for entry level although for the most competitive courses these are either required or can be an advantage.



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7. Should I sit Advanced Highers?

- Realistically if you are on track to achieve a C at Higher – we would suggest that Advanced Higher is **very likely** to be too much of a jump in demand.
- If you are on track to achieve a strong B or A then an Advanced Higher may well be a good option for you.
- You also must be prepared for a LOT of self study and independent study when studying an Advanced Higher – may only involve 4 periods of teaching time.



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7. Should I sit Advanced Highers?

- Unless the course that you are considering at University / College is specifically asking for Advanced Highers (Medicine / Vet Medicine / Dentistry / Oxbridge applicants – we would suggest that for those on track to achieve 4 or 5 Highers, a good mix would be to study both Highers and Advanced Higher courses.



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8. What other things should I think about?

- Remember to look back at your S4 report – you moved from 8 subjects in S4 to 5 in S5.
- So are there any subjects that you performed well at National 5 in S4 and could pick up at Higher in S6.
- By having already studied the subject in S3/4, you will have an advantage when it comes to sitting the Higher qualification in S6.



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9. Can I study a Part Time College Course in S5?

- Yes but we do not have any information as of yet about what courses / levels are running.
- Keep an eye on the year group Team for updates from Mr Mullin regarding this.
- This is column B of your timetable (Tuesday and Thursday afternoon).
- **Only study a course if it will really add value to your qualifications.**



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9. Can I study a Part Time College Course in S5?

- If you want advice on whether you should study a part time college course – once we know what courses are running – speak to Pastoral Care and Miss Cusick **ASAP!**
- For some it is a great idea but you **MUST** be fully committed to travelling and completing the full course during the year!



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10. Should I resit a Higher to upgrade my result?

- Unless the course that you wish to apply for is specifically asking for this we would say no (except for N5 Maths or English).
- Generally when students try to upgrade Higher qualifications in S6 it does not work as they get bored easily from repeating the same work – talk to your House Team for advice on this if it applies to you!



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11. What do I do if I want to sit a subject that does not run at Hyndland?

- Remember if you choose to do this there can be challenges such as transport (the school will not pay/provide transport), timetable clashes (you will most likely have to miss time in your other subjects) and chances of success (to be honest this has been quite low in past experiences).
- If you still wish to do this – mark this on your glow option form but you **MUST** pick a back up plan from the courses we run in school.



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12. What happens if my SQA results are different to what I am expecting?

- We will be able to do LIMITED changes in August to course planning BUT this will only be based upon your SQA results.
- This is why it is so important that you make the right choices now! We will be deciding what classes to run based on these choices and this cannot change in August!



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Remember you can drop in to see your Careers Advisor for advice during the coming weeks – click on the QR code on the next slide or on poster outside Pastoral Care to book an appointment



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Skills
Development
Scotland

Your School Career Advisor

We have one full time Career Advisor based in our school. Her name is Vanessa Kokota and she can be found in the Careers Office in the school library. Advisor based on their House Group as below:

You can contact Vanessa by:

Email - gw21kokotavanessa@glowmail.org.uk

Or

By visiting the Careers Office in the School Library to book an appointment

Or

Scan the QR code below to request an appointment

How can I make an appointment with my Careers Advisor?

You can either attend the drop-in session which takes place on Mondays and Fridays at lunchtime in the library or you can scan the QR code below and complete the short survey – Vanessa will then be in touch via Glow email.

Making an appointment to see
your Careers Advisor at Hyndland
Secondary School - 2023-24



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Respect at Hyndland:

We don't judge people, we
celebrate individuality and
we are kind



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Respect Me – effectively challenging racism in schools:

“Unacceptable language and jokes around the school **can create a climate of racism** which both directly and indirectly excludes, threatens, hurts or humiliates young people”.



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“Racist language can be used without malice or understanding, **but this does not mean that it has no impact on young people who hear it used in this way.** Both minority ethnic young people and the wider school community may be seriously affected by these negative messages”.



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- [Thierry Henry interview, Part 4 - Unintentional racism, jokes and banter - YouTube](#)



As a school we must all ensure:

- We are challenging any kind of culture of casual racism – use of inappropriate words – even between friend.
- We use language that is not offensive to anyone.
- As a school community we should all strive to call out any kind of behaviour that we know is not right.
- Think about how and what you want to be remembered for from your time at school....



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Live
the way
you want
to be
remembered.

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SQA Exams Countdown and Support Available



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The first SQA Exam is on
Monday 22nd April for S5
students

5 weeks TODAY!



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Supports on offer:

- **Extensive Supported Study Timetable in place** – PLEASE make sure you are taking advantage of this. We are tracking attendance and rewards will be issued to students attending sessions!
- **Saturday Study** – this is on up to the Easter Holidays – really popular and a great way to study!
- See Teams and School Website for timetables!



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Supports on offer:

- **Spring Revision Programme** – there will be some provision in school during the spring break – this will be targeted at practical based subjects with coursework outstanding e.g. Art, Photography, Design & Manufacture, Drama etc.
- You will be required to sign up in advance to attend – keep an eye on the school website.



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Remember to sign up for My SQA

**GET RESULTS
READY WITH**

X MySQA

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